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**FAX:**

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JUN 24 2004

Local Boundary Commission

TO: LBC - 907-269-4539

FROM: Dave & Eileen Secker

DATE: 6-23-04 TOTAL # OF PAGES: 3

RE: Kach Emergency Service Area  
Testimony

**NOTES:**

Please accept these written  
comments on the impact  
of KPSA from the Homer  
Annexation

TO: Local Boundary Commission June 23, 2004

FROM: Dave & Eileen Becker PO Box 109, Homer, AK 99603

RE: Upcoming Hearings regarding Kachemak Emergency Service Area and the impact by the annexation in Homer

First of all I want to introduce ourselves as 30 year residents of Homer area. Our home and business is located on Diamond Ridge Road. We were part of the original proposed annexed area.

It has been a long time concern for us regarding Fire and EMT service in our location 7 miles out of Homer. Upon completing our home and the first radio station I called the Homer Volunteer Fire Department and requested information about our ability to call upon the HVFD if needed. I was told, at that time, it all depended on available service and who ever was in charge. Our area was the responsibility of the State Department of Forestry and they were located over 75 miles away. I ask if there was a grass fire that broke out in or around Diamond Ridge would they respond....the answer was possibly. We took as much precaution as possible, large fire extinguisher, clearing property and having a fire plan for the family. Not a real comforting solution.

With the increase of dead spruce trees we all are feeling like you are surrounded by a tinder box. While the fire was raging on the Spit several years ago one of the top concerns was that another location would not need fire or EMT service. We waited through the day for possible evacuation if the wind shifted.(Dangerous gas fumes) With one road out of Homer that could have proved very dangerous.

The loss of leased equipment and the comments from the City officials of not allowing "their" equipment to service anything out side the City of Homer led our group to take the necessary

step to form a Fire and Emergency Service District. Our personal fire insurance would have skyrocketed or not been available. I helped with obtaining signatures and promoted the idea to get the voters out to vote with the special election. The voter response was around 70% in favor of the KESA. We included in this area all the land that could be serviced by a reasonable amount of men and equipment. The mill rate was set not to exceed 1.75 mills. Our projections for the whole KESA area with that amount of money coming in hopefully would provide adequate protection.

Our original thinking was that the City of Homer felt it offered too many services for the outlying areas and that a service district would solve the problem. We were amazed that the annexation went forward. After two years the original size was reduced late in the day during the final formal hearings before the Local Boundary Commissions. This would have been an excellent time to instruct the staff of the LBC and the City of Homer to make the necessary corrections on the actual cost, overall impact and how it would effect KESA. The formal hearing were conducted over 2 days and in less than 10 minutes the LBC came back with a unanimous decision to accept the recommendations of the LBC staff. We later heard from a very reliable source that the LBC did not read the materials provided. I know there was much to be considered but much was at stake. Watching the KESA have its area changed without a vote was amazing. To watch while the LBC changed the area without the City of Homer going back and readjusting their financial figures was incredible. To watch the Kachemak Emergency Service Area, that had been approved by the voters be carved up by the LBC staff and commissions, without a vote, made the whole process an incredible sham.

It is our sincere hope that you will honestly take the time to look over the irregular proceeding that took place. It is our opinion it has made it very difficult for the KESA to operate in the best interest of our area. Thank you.

*Eileen Becker*